

Amendment

In response to the Office Action dated July 26, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 16-26, 28-40, and 42-64 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1-7, 10, 15, 27 and 41 and add new Claims 65-66 as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1-7, 10, 15, 27 and 41, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

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- A. ^{sub} 617. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
- storage means for storing data; and
 - setting means for setting a timing for applying an electronic watermark to the data when storing the data in said storage means.
2. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting means is capable of setting at least a timing for transmitting said data stored in said storage means, and a timing for storing said data in said storage means.

Q. 3. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting means is capable of setting at least a timing for outputting said data stored in said storage means, and a timing for storing said data in said storage means.

4. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said data is outputted after an electronic watermark has been removed from said data.

5. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

display means for providing a display of said data, wherein said display means displays said data to which an electronic watermark is applied.

6. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said data is outputted by using an output device that is capable of communicating with said information processing apparatus.

7. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the electronic watermark is removed from said data by said output device.

8. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, when the output of said data is completed, said output device deletes data received from said information processing apparatus.

9. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, during the data output process, said output device does not halt said data output process even upon receiving of a halting instruction.

10. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting means is capable of designating one of a plurality of electronic watermarking methods.

11. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said plurality of electronic watermarking methods include at the least a first method for employing an electronic watermark as visible information, and a second method for employing an electronic watermark as invisible information.

12. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said plurality of electronic watermarking methods include at the least a third method for employing an electronic watermark as removable information, and a fourth method for employing an electronic watermark as unremovable information.

13. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting means is capable of designating watermark information that is to be applied to said data by said electronic watermarking means, and

wherein said electronic watermarking means applies, to said data, said watermark information designated by said setting means.

14. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising: management means for managing said watermark information designated by said setting means,

wherein said electronic watermarking means is capable of employing a plurality of electronic watermarking methods, and

wherein said management means employs a common form to manage said watermark information, regardless of whether said watermark information has a different form.

sub 6017 15. (Amended) An information processing system having plurality of information processing devices, comprising

storage means for storing data; and

setting means for setting a timing for applying an electronic watermark to the data when storing the data in said storage means.

Claim 16 has been cancelled.

Claim 17 has been cancelled.

Claim 18 has been cancelled.

Claim 19 has been cancelled.

Claim 20 has been cancelled.

Claim 21 has been cancelled.

Claim 22 has been cancelled.

Claim 23 has been cancelled.

Claim 24 has been cancelled.

Claim 25 has been cancelled.

Claim 26 has been cancelled.

OK 5/3 6/7 27. (Amended) A control method for an information processing apparatus

comprising:

a registration step of registering data in a memory; and

a setting step of setting a timing for applying an electronic watermark to the data when registering the data in said registration step.

Claim 28 has been cancelled.

Claim 29 has been cancelled.

Claim 30 has been cancelled.

Claim 31 has been cancelled.

Claim 32 has been cancelled.

Claim 33 has been cancelled.

Claim 34 has been cancelled.

Claim 35 has been cancelled.

Claim 36 has been cancelled.

Claim 37 has been cancelled.

Claim 38 has been cancelled.

Claim 39 has been cancelled.

Claim 40 has been cancelled.

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61 } 41. (Amended) A control method for a system having plurality of information devices,
said control method comprising:
a registration step of registering data in a memory; and
a setting step of setting a timing for applying an electronic watermark to the data when
registering the data in said registration step.

Claim 42 has been cancelled.

Claim 43 has been cancelled.

Claim 44 has been cancelled.

Claim 45 has been cancelled.

Claim 46 has been cancelled.

Claim 47 has been cancelled.

Claim 48 has been cancelled.

Claim 49 has been cancelled.

Claim 50 has been cancelled.

Claim 51 has been cancelled.

Claim 52 has been cancelled.

Claim 53 has been cancelled.

Claim 54 has been cancelled.

Claim 55 has been cancelled.

Claim 56 has been cancelled.

Claim 57 has been cancelled.

Claim 58 has been cancelled.

Claim 59 has been cancelled.

Claim 60 has been cancelled.

Claim 61 has been cancelled.

Claim 62 has been cancelled.

Please ~~add~~ new Claims 65-66 as follows:

65. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing data;

electronic watermarking means for applying an electronic watermark to said data;

communication means for transmitting said data; and